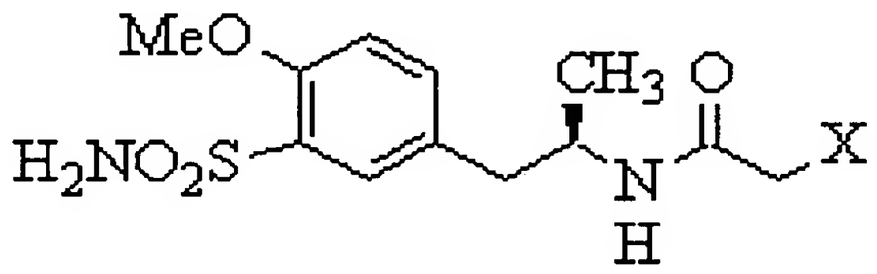
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method of preparing an optically pure compound having formula 1 or its salts, comprising:

reacting (R)-2-(4-methoxy-3-aminosulfonyl-phenyl)-1-methylethylamine or its salts with a compound selected from the group consisting of chloroacetic acid, bromoacetic acid, fluoroacetic acid, iodoacetic acid, α-halogenoacetic acid anhydride, and α-halogenoacetyl halide in the presence of a base or an acylating agent:



...(1)

wherein

X is halogen.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base is trialkylamine or an inorganic base.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acylating agent is N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, N,N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide, N-[3-(dimethylaminopropyl)-N'-ethylcarbodiimide, bis(2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl)phosphinic chloride, (benzotriazole-1-yloxy)tris(dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate, O-benzotriazole-1-yl-N,N,N',N'-bis(tetramethyl)uronium hexafluorophosphate, or O-(7-azabenzotriazole-1-yl)-N,N,N',N'-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein α-halogenoacetic acid anhydride is obtained in-site during the reaction by reacting α-halogenoacetic acid with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of methyl chloroformate, ethyl chloroformate, butyl chloroformate, benzyl chloroformate, and pivaloyl chloride.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein α-halogenoacetyl halide is selected from the group consisting of bromoacetyl bromide, bromoacetyl chloride, chloroacetyl chloride, and chloroacetyl bromide.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing (R)-5-{2-[2-(2-ethoxyphenoxy)ethylamino]-propyl}-2-methoxybenzenesulfonamide or its salts, comprising:

reacting an optically pure compound having formula 1 or its salts prepared using the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 with (i) 2-ethoxyphenol in the presence of a base or (ii) sodium 2-ethoxyphenoxide or potassium 2-ethoxyphenoxide to prepare (R)-2-(2-ethoxyphenoxy)-N-[2-(4-methoxy-3-aminosulfonyl-phenyl)- 1-methyl-ethyl]acetamide; and

reducing the obtained (R)-2-(2-ethoxyphenoxy)-N-[2-(4-methoxy-3-aminosulfonyl-phenyl)-1-methylethyl]acetamide.